

Public Services

Chapter 3.14

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The proposed Project will result in less than significant impacts related to Public Services with mitigation. A detailed review of potential impacts is provided in the analysis below.

INTRODUCTION

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Requirements

This section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) addresses potential impacts to Land Use and Recreation. As required in Section 15126, all phases of the proposed Project will be considered as part of the potential environmental impact.

The environmental setting provides a description of the Public Services in the County. The regulatory setting provides a description of applicable Federal, State and Local regulatory policies that were developed in part from information contained in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, the Tulare County General Plan Background Report and/or the Tulare County General Plan Revised DEIR incorporated by reference and summarized below. Additional documents utilized are noted as appropriate. A description of the potential impacts of the proposed Project is provided and includes the identification of feasible mitigation measures (if necessary and feasible) to avoid or lessen the impacts.

Thresholds of Significance

The thresholds of significance for this section are established by the CEQA checklist item questions. The following are potential thresholds for significance.

- Impact Fire Services
- Impact Police Services
- Impact Schools
- Impact Parks
- Impact Other Public Facilities

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Fire Protection

“The [former] California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/Tulare County Fire Department (now CalFire/TCFD) serve 145,128 of Tulare County’s population. As Table 7-6 [of the General Plan Background document] shows, dispatchers reported 14,022 responses in 2002, averaging 38.4 calls a day. Fire occurrence data generated by the department indicate a direct relationship between high use areas of the county and fire occurrence. The population increase in the mountain areas have caused increased wildland urban interface problems as well. Structures are being built throughout wildland areas wherein vegetation fires can spread rapidly. Providing adequate fire protection to those structures has become a major undertaking.”¹

“..[T]he Tulare County Fire Department responded to 14,022 calls for service in 2002... [A] majority of the calls were for medical emergencies (52 percent) followed by fire calls (20 percent). The remaining calls ranged from dispatch incidents (8.1 percent) to assisting other agencies (7.3 percent) to public assistance (3.4 percent).”²

Tulare Fire Station #25 is located at 2082 Foster Drive in Tulare and is approximately four miles from the proposed Project Site. The City of Tulare has three Fire Stations located within approximately five miles of the proposed Project site.³

Fire Station 61 is located at 800 S. Blackstone St. in the southeast side of Tulare. Housed at this station is our 2000 E-ONE 75HP Ladder Truck, 1999 Central States HME Engine, and 2003 F550 chassis Patrol. Station one is staffed by 1-Captain, 2-Engineer and 2-Firefighter/Paramedics. Last Year station 61 responded to 82 fire calls, 1,201 medical aids and 513 other service and non-emergent calls for a total o 1,796 in their first response district. This Station is located approximately four miles to the southwest of the proposed Project site.

Fire Station 62 is located at 138 N. “E” St. servicing Tulare’s “Westside”, the city’s busiest District. Housed at this station is our 2005 E-ONE Engine and 1986 Pierce Suburban Reserve Brush Engine. Station 62 is staffed by 1-Captain, 1-Engineer, and 1 Firefighter/Paramedic. Last Year station 62 responded to 92 fire calls, 1,353 medical aids and 645 other service calls and non-emergent calls for a total of 2,090 in their first response district. This Station is located approximately five miles to the southwest of the proposed Project site.

Fire Station 63 located at 2900 N. “M” St., opened in 2004 servicing Tulare’s northeast side. Housed at this station is our 2003 E-ONE Engine and 1996 Central States HME reserve engine. Station 63 is staffed with 1-Captain, 1-Engineer and 1-Firefighter/Paramedic. This station also houses the on-duty Battalion Chief, responsible

¹ General Plan Background Report, page 7-73

² Ibid., page 7-74

³ Ibid.

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for overseeing the safety of the citizens after hours and on weekends. Last year station 63 responded to 30 fire calls, 744 medical aids and 526 other service calls and non-emergent calls. This Station is located approximately four miles to the southwest of the proposed Project site.

Police Protection

“In 2007, the Tulare County Sheriff’s Department currently had 448 sworn officers serving its unincorporated population (145,128), and generates a level of service ratio of 3.2 officers per 1,000 residents. The ratio is above the accepted standard of 2.0 officers per 1,000 residents set by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Sheriff’s Department also has 186 non-sworn clerical and support staff amounting to a total Sheriffs Department staff personnel of 633 employees.”⁴

“Law enforcement protection for the unincorporated county is divided into 22 areas with four stations... [T]he Porterville substation serves the largest number of areas with 10 patrols, followed by the headquarters in Visalia with six, and Cutler-Orosi and Pixley, each with three areas.”⁵

Schools

A total of 48 school districts provide education throughout Tulare County... Of the 48 school districts, seven are unified districts providing educational services for kindergarten through 12th grade. The remaining 41 districts consist of 36 elementary school districts and four high school districts. Many districts only have one school.”⁶

“Total enrolment in Tulare County public schools has increased from about 80,000 to 88,300 students during a nine-year span from 1993 to 2002. On average, the growth rate has remained steady with annual increases approximating two percent.”⁷

Parks

There are a number of Federal, State, and local parks within Tulare County, including 13 park and recreational facilities operated by the County of Tulare. A list of these local park facilities is provided in **Table 3.14-1**.

**Table 3.14-1
Recreational Areas in Tulare County**

ID	Recreation Area	Location	Acres	Type of Use/Features
1	Alpaugh Park	Located in Alpaugh on Road 40.	3	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. No entrance fee.
2	Balch Park Campgrounds	20 miles NE of Springville in the Sierras.	160	71 Campsites. No reservations taken; first come first serve basis. Entrance fee for vehicles.
3	Bartlett Park	8 miles east of Porterville on	127.5	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. Entrance fee for vehicles.

⁴ General Plan Background Report, pages 7-71 and 7-72

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid., pages 7-75 and 7-76

⁷ Ibid., page 7-76

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ID	Recreation Area	Location	Acres	Type of Use/Features
		North Drive.		
4	Camp COTYAC	Near Ponderosa in Eastern Tulare County.	8	County of Tulare Youth Adventure Camp (Camp COTYAC). Cabins, lodge with kitchen, restrooms and showers.
5	Cutler Park	5 miles east of Visalia on Highway 216 to Ivanhoe.	50	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. Entrance fee for vehicles.
6	Elk Bayou Park	6 miles SE of Tulare on Avenue 200.	60	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. No fee for day use.
7	Kings River Nature Preserve	2 miles east of Highway 99 on Road 28	85	This park is only for school environmental programs.
8	Ledbetter Park	1 mile northwest of Cutler on Road 124/Hwy 63	11	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. No fee.
9	Mooney Grove Park	2 Miles south of Caldwell Avenue on Mooney Blvd. In South Visalia.	143	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. Paddle boats, playground, baseball diamonds. Home of the End Trail statue. One of the largest oak woodlands in Tulare County. Location of the Agriculture and Farm Labor Museum.
10	Pixley Park	1 mile NE of Pixley on Road 124.	22	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. No fee.
11	Tulare County Museum	In Mooney Grove Park, South Visalia.	8.5	Free admission with park fee. Museum is opened Thursday thru Monday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday).
12	Woodville Park	Located in Avenue 166 in Woodville.	10	Reservations for picnic areas are taken. Day use no entrance fee.
13	West Main Street Park	2 blocks west of County Courthouse on Main Street in Downtown Visalia.	5	Day use no entrance fee.

Source: General Plan Background Report

Additional discussion of recreational facilities is provided in Chapter 3.15.

Library

“The Tulare County Public Library System is comprised of interdependent branches, grouped by services, geography and usage patterns to provide efficient and economical services to the residents of the county. At present, there are 14 regional libraries and one main branch.”⁸

**Table 3.14-2
Tulare County Libraries**

Branch	Address	Service Hours (2003)
Alpaugh	3816 Avenue 54 Alpaugh, CA 93201-0069	Tuesday: 10 am - 1pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Wednesday: 10 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm
Dinuba	150 South I Street Dinuba, CA 93618-2399	Tuesday: 11 am - 5 pm, 6 pm - 8 pm Wednesday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Thursday: 11 am - 5 pm, 6 pm - 8 pm Friday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm
Earlimart	780 East Washington Earlimart, CA 93219-2153	Tuesday: 10 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Wednesday: 10 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Thursday: 10 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Friday: 10 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm
Exeter	230 East Chestnut Exeter, CA 93221-1712	Tuesday: 11 am - 5 pm, 6 pm - 8 pm Wednesday: 11 am - 5 pm, 6 pm - 8 pm Thursday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Friday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm
Ivanhoe	15964 Heather Ivanhoe, CA 93235-1253	Wednesday: 10 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Thursday: 10 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm

⁸General Plan Background Report, page 7-96

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Branch	Address	Service Hours (2003)
Lindsay	165 North Gale Hill Street Lindsay, CA 93247-2507	Tuesday: 11 pm - 5 pm; 6 pm - 8 pm Wednesday: 9 am - 1 pm; 2 pm - 6 pm Thursday: 11 am - 5 pm; 6 pm - 8 pm Friday: 9 am - 1 pm; 2 pm - 6 pm
Cutler-Orosi	12646 Avenue 416 Orosi, CA 93647-2018	Wednesday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Thursday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Friday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm
Pixley	300 North School Pixley, CA 93256-1011	Tuesday: 9:30 am - 8 pm Wednesday: 9:30 am - 5 pm Thursday: 9:30 am - 8 pm Friday: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm Saturday: 10 am - 2 pm
Springville	35800 Highway 190 Springville, CA 93265-0257	Thursday: 11 am - 5 pm, 6 pm - 8 pm Friday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Saturday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 5 pm
Strathmore	19646 Road 230 Strathmore, CA 93267-0595	Tuesday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Wednesday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm
Terra Bella	23825 Avenue 92 Terra Bella, CA 93270-0442	Monday – Friday: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm
Three Rivers	42052 Eggers Drive 216 Three Rivers, CA 93271-0216	Wednesday: 10 pm - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Thursday: 12 pm - 1 pm, 6 pm - 8 pm Friday: 10 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm
Tipton	301 East Woods Avenue Tipton, CA 93272-0039	Thursday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Friday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm
Visalia	Main Branch 200 West Oak Avenue Visalia, CA 93291-4993	Tuesday: 9 am - 8 pm Wednesday: 9 am - 8 pm Thursday: 9 am - 8 pm Friday: 12 pm - 6 pm Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm
Woodlake	400 West Whitney Woodlake, CA 93286-1298	Wednesday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Thursday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm Friday: 9 am - 1 pm, 2 pm - 6 pm

Library hours current as of February 2010
Source: General Plan Background Report

REGULATORY SETTING

Federal Agencies & Regulations

None that apply to the proposed Project.

State Agencies & Regulations

None that apply to the proposed Project.

Local Policy & Regulations

Tulare County General Plan Policies

The General Plan has a number of policies that apply to projects within Tulare County. General Plan policies that relate to the proposed Project are listed below.

PFS-7.1 Fire Protection

The County shall strive to expand fire protection service in areas that experience growth in order to maintain adequate levels of service.

PFS-7.2 Fire Protection Standards

The County shall require all new development to be adequately served by water supplies, storage, and conveyance facilities supplying adequate volume, pressure, and capacity for fire protection.

PFS-7.3 Visible Signage for Roads and Buildings

The County shall strive to ensure all roads are properly identified by name or number with clearly visible signs.

PFS-7.5 Fire Staffing and Response Time Standards

The County shall strive to maintain fire department staffing and response time goals consistent with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.

**Table 3.14-3
Fire Staffing and Responses Time Standards**

	Demographics	Staffing/Response Time	% of Calls
Urban	> 1,000 people/sq. mi.	15 FF/9 min.	90
Suburban	500-100 people/sq. mi.	10 FF/10 min.	80
Rural	< 500 people/sq. mi.	6 FF/14 min.	80
Remote*	Travel Dist. > 8 min.	4 FF/no specific response time	90

*Upon assembling the necessary resources at the emergency scene, the fire department should have the capacity to safely commence an initial attack within 2 minutes, 90% of the time. (FF = Fire Fighters)
Source: Tulare County 2030 General Plan

PFS-7.6 Provision of Station Facilities and Equipment

The County shall strive to provide sheriff and fire station facilities, equipment (engines and other apparatus), and staffing necessary to maintain the County's service goals. The County shall continue to cooperate with mutual aid providers to provide coverage throughout the County.

PFS-7.8 Law Enforcement Staffing Ratios

The County shall strive to achieve and maintain a staffing ratio of 3 sworn officers per 1,000 residents in unincorporated areas.

PFS-7.9 Sheriff Response Time

The County shall work with the Sheriff's Department to achieve and maintain a response time of:

1. Less than 10 minutes for 90 percent of the calls in the valley region; and
2. 15 minutes for 75 percent of the calls in the foothill and mountain regions.

PFS-7.12 Design Features for Crime Prevention and Reduction

The County shall promote the use of building and site design features as means for crime prevention and reduction.

PFS-8.1 Work with Local School Districts

The County shall work with local school districts to develop solutions for overcrowded schools and financial constraints of constructing new facilities.

PFS-8.4 Library Facilities and Services

The County shall encourage expansion of library facilities and services as necessary to meet the needs (e.g., internet access, meeting rooms, etc.) of future population growth.

IMPACT EVALUATION

- a) **With the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:**

Fire protection?

Project Impact Analysis: ***Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation***

The Project will continue to be served by the Tulare County Fire Department. The added digester component adds flare and a CNG gas station but does not result in a substantial adverse affect to fire protection facilities or capabilities. The County of Tulare Fire Department has 28 stations that are located throughout the County within its most densely populated areas and currently maintains minimal staffing to meet the requirements set forth under NFPA 1720-1721 for a rural area. These requirements consist of one full-time person per station per shift with other paid on-call firefighters. Per the Tulare County Fire Department while this is sufficient to meet the basic needs of the County, this level of staffing often results in an elevated fire loss value during some emergency conditions when compared with other departments with additional staff support. In addition to the need for additional staff, some facilities need repairs, replacements, or relocations. Currently, relocations are planned for the South Visalia and Alpaugh fire stations. Additional fire stations in need of relocation included West Olive, Tulare, and Dinuba fire stations. The County of Tulare Fire Department currently has one station located near the proposed Project site (TC GPBR, 2010). Therefore, Project specific impacts related to this checklist item may occur.

Cumulative Impact Analysis: ***Less than Significant Impact***

The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR. The proposed Project will

not significantly impact Tulare County Fire Department's response times. Therefore, less than significant cumulative impacts related to this checklist item may occur.

Mitigation Measures:

- 3.14-1 Applicant shall provide an all weather access road to the site and any buildings affected by the Special Use Permit.**
- 3.14-2 Applicant shall submit plans for any new construction, remodeling, alterations, or building additions. All new construction shall meet 2007 Building Code, Fire Code, Mechanical Code, Electric Code and Plumbing Code, as applicable.**
- 3.14-3 If proposed use constitutes a change of occupancy, the existing building(s) affected by the change of occupancy and the Special Use Permit shall comply with 2007 Building and Fire Codes and other adopted standards.**
- 3.14-4 The Tulare County Fire Department shall be notified of the proposed start date of any processing, storage, or special use granted and mitigated prior to initiation of any building operations.**
- 3.14-5 Violations of any of these conditions will result in Tulare County Fire Department's rescission of approval of the Special Use Permit.**

Conclusion:

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation

With the above mentioned mitigation measures, the Project specific impacts related to this checklist item will be reduced to a level considered less than significant. No cumulative impacts related to this checklist item will occur.

Police protection?

Project Impact Analysis:

No Impact

The County of Tulare Sheriff's Office will continue to provide police protection services to the proposed Project site upon development. Emergency response is adequate to the proposed Project site. No residential construction is proposed for this site. There will be no impact to police services.

Cumulative Impact Analysis:

No Impact

The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR.

As noted earlier, the proposed Project will not impact Police Services. As such, no cumulative impacts related to this checklist item will occur.

Mitigation Measures:

None required.

Conclusion: *No Impact*

As noted earlier, no Project specific or cumulative impacts related to this checklist item will occur.

Schools?

Project Impact Analysis: *No Impact*

There are a number of schools located in the Tulare area with the nearest, Sundale Preschool and Elementary School, located less than one mile southeast of the proposed Project site.

Cumulative Impact Analysis: *No Impact*

The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR.

As noted earlier, the proposed Project will not impact Schools. As such, no cumulative impacts related to this checklist item will occur.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Conclusion: *No Impact*

As noted earlier, no Project specific or cumulative impacts related to this checklist item will occur.

Parks?

Project Impact Analysis: *No Impact*

Local parks within the City of Tulare are the nearest to the proposed Project site. Del Lago Park is located approximately 2.9 miles to the west of the site, while Cutler Park and Mooney Grove Park are located approximately three (15) miles from the Project site. The Project will

not add employees or interfere with the use of these parks during operations or construction. Therefore, there will not be an impact on any parks.

Cumulative Impact Analysis: ***No Impact***

The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR.

As noted earlier, the proposed Project will not impact Recreational Services. As such, no cumulative impacts related to this checklist item will occur.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Conclusion: ***No Impact***

As noted earlier, no Project specific or cumulative impacts related to this checklist item will occur.

Other public facilities?

Project Impact Analysis: ***No Impact***

Other public facilities include water/waste water treatment plants, libraries and solid waste disposal facilities.

Although the Project will add potential construction debris at the Visalia or Teapot Dome Landfills, ultimately, the proposed Project will improve operations at solid waste disposal facilities through increased diversion of solid waste from landfills. Therefore, the Project will result in a public benefit to the environment.

The proposed Project is not connected to a sewer line and the on-site office will continue to rely on an existing septic disposal system. Therefore, the proposed Project will not impact service levels of a wastewater treatment facility.

The proposed Project does not involve the creation of new residences. Therefore, the Project will not result in specific impacts related to this checklist item.

Cumulative Impact Analysis: ***No Impact***

The geographic area of this cumulative analysis is Tulare County. This cumulative analysis is based on the information provided in the Tulare County 2030 General Plan, General Plan background Report, and/or Tulare County 2030 General Plan EIR.

As noted earlier, the proposed Project will not impact other public facilities. As such, no cumulative impacts related to this checklist item will occur.

Mitigation Measures:

None Required.

Conclusion: *No Impact*

As noted earlier, no Project specific or cumulative impacts related to this checklist item will occur.

REFERENCES

Tulare County 2030 General Plan, August 2012

Tulare County 2030 General Plan Background Report, February 2010

2012 CEQA Guidelines